

Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of )  
 )  
Defining Primary Lines )  
 )  
Classification of Centrex )  
Type Dormitory Lines )

CC Docket No. 97-181

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**PETITION FOR WAIVER**

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") herewith petitions for a waiver of rules promulgated in the above-referenced proceeding, to the extent these require application of a two-tiered rating structure to Centrex type dormitory lines.<sup>1</sup> If its request is approved, BellSouth will classify all Centrex type lines serving college and university dormitories as primary residential for purposes of assessing presubscribed interexchange carrier charges ("PICCs") and subscriber line charges ("SLCs").

**DISCUSSION**

Since the first interstate access tariffs were filed after divestiture, BellSouth has classified Centrex type lines in college and university dormitories as residential service. In 1997 the Commission's *Access Reform Order*<sup>2</sup> further subdivided the residential classification into primary and non-primary lines; however, no definition of these concepts was attempted at the

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<sup>1</sup> "The term 'Centrex Type Services' denotes central office based non-transport arrangements which permit abbreviated internal calling, and inward and outward calling from station lines associated with Centrex service, ESSX-1 service, ESSX service, Digital ESSX service, MultiServ service and MultiServ PLUS service." BellSouth Tariff F.C.C. No. 1, Section 2.6.

<sup>2</sup> In the Matter of Access Charge Reform, CC Docket No. 96-262, *First Report and Order*, 12 FCC Rcd 15982 (1997).

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time. Accordingly, BellSouth adopted a location-based definition, which designated all Centrex type dormitory lines as primary residential. This approach is seen in the current BellSouth interstate access tariff.<sup>3</sup>

The Commission's recent order in the above-referenced docket limits the number of primary lines per service location to one and equates a college dormitory room to a single service location.<sup>4</sup> Absent a waiver or rescission of the rule, BellSouth must undertake a massive and costly effort to reclassify and re-rate dormitory service provided on numerous college and university campuses in its region.

An examination of typical provisioning arrangements for Centrex type dormitory service speedily reveals the extent of the problem. One feature common to all such arrangements is the fact that the provisioning carrier (BellSouth) does not maintain customer service records on the students who are the end users of the service nor does it have information which would enable it to identify one line per room for primary rate treatment.<sup>5</sup> Extensive changes in BellSouth systems and processes will be necessary to apply a two-tiered rating structure in the context of dormitory arrangements. Initially, customer premise visits may be required to gather room location addresses, building and room numbers, and the number of service lines per room. Given the transient nature of these living arrangements and the frequency with which changes occur

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<sup>3</sup> "For dormitory quarters, however, the Telephone Company shall deem each line terminating therein a Primary Residential Local Exchange Service line." BellSouth Tariff F.C.C. No. 1, Section 4.6(C)(4).

<sup>4</sup> "Thus, we will consider one residential line provided by a price cap LEC per service location to be a primary residential line. For example, only one line per house, per apartment, or per college dorm room will receive primary-line rates." In the Matter of Defining Primary Lines, CC Docket No. 97-181, FCC 99-28, *Report and Order & Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, released March 10, 1999, ¶ 15 ("Report and Order").

<sup>5</sup> Indeed, even for the college or university subscribing to Centrex type dormitory arrangements, the ability to identify one primary line per service location appears to be at best problematic. See Association for Telecommunications Professionals in Higher Education (ACUTA), *Petition for Reconsideration*, filed May 5, 1999, pp. 4-5.

(often on a per semester or per quarter basis), there is a significant possibility that such visits—with their attendant inconvenience and expense—will have to be repeated at intervals. The records of approximately 44 colleges and universities containing 49,657 subscriber service lines will have to be updated with new address information. New methods and procedures will be required to accomplish these updates and the future maintenance of accounts. Finally, customer service representatives will require additional training in the methods and procedures ultimately adopted. All such work will have to be performed manually until mechanized procedures can be developed. Availability of mechanized procedures is expected to be no earlier than January 2001.

BellSouth is aware that three parties have petitioned for reconsideration of the *Report and Order* and have asked for a reversal of the decision to apply a two-tiered rating structure to service provided in dormitory rooms.<sup>6</sup> BellSouth supports these filings and believes that petitioners have demonstrated convincingly that inequitable and unintended results will follow from application of the primary/non-primary SLC and PICC rating structure to dormitory residences. Grant of these petitions will fully exempt dormitory service from the application of two-tier rates and accordingly render moot BellSouth's current waiver request. Nevertheless, if the Commission should decline to reverse its holding on reconsideration, BellSouth has shown that it will incur substantial administrative and financial burden to implement the present SLC/PICC rating requirements in the context of dormitory service. This evidence amply supports a waiver on behalf of BellSouth as in the public interest, even if the Commission

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<sup>6</sup> ACUTA *Petition for Reconsideration*, n. 5 *supra*; Moultrie Independent Telephone Company, *Petition for Reconsideration*, filed May 5, 1999; Brown University, *Petition for Reconsideration*, filed May 5, 1999.

ultimately concludes that it is appropriate to maintain application of the general rule to dormitory service.


**CONCLUSION**

Based upon the foregoing evidence, the Commission should grant BellSouth's request and waive the application of a two-tiered SLC/PICC rate structure with respect to Centrex type services provided in college and university residential dormitories.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 16, 1999

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I do hereby certify that I have this 16<sup>th</sup> day of June 1999 served the following parties to this action with a copy of the foregoing PETITION FOR WAIVER by hand delivery or by placing a true and correct copy of the same in the United States mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the parties listed below.

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**\* VIA HAND DELIVERY**